

## Iowa's Notable Dead ...

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**SAMUEL HENRY BAUMAN**, veterinarian, legislator and centenarian, died at Fairfield, Iowa, October 6, 1955; born near Zwingle, Dubuque county, Iowa, August 14, 1855; son of the late Rev. Frederick C. and Elizabeth Cort Bauman, grandson of Daniel Cort, a democratic member of the Iowa House of Representatives from Dubuque county in 1856 and again in 1865, and the eldest of nine brothers and sisters; educated in public schools of Dubuque county, Blainstown (Iowa) academy and Henry (Illinois) seminary; united in marriage to Myrtle G. Morse, of LaMotte, Iowa, June 23, 1881, who preceded him in death in 1931; taught school four terms, serving as principal of the Zwingle graded school; in 1881 became agent and operator for the C. M. & St. P. Ry. at Bernard, Iowa, and followed that occupation until 1890, when he resigned and took a course at the Chicago Veterinary college, graduating in 1892, receiving the degree of D.V.S.; entered a partnership with Dr. T. A. Shipley in the practice of his profession at Dubuque; removed in 1897 to Birmingham, Van Buren county, Iowa, and devoted his life to farming and practice as a veterinarian; served several years as town mayor and six sessions as a member of the Iowa House of Representatives from 1907 to 1917 from Van Buren county; a member of the Presbyterian church, the Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, National Veterinary Medical association and the Missouri Valley association; was honored upon reaching his 100th birthday last August 14 by an open-house observance of the event at the Crawford Nursing home in Fairfield, where he has resided during the past two years in declining health, with more than 100 relatives and friends greeting him and many letters and telegrams congratulating him upon becoming the oldest legislator in Iowa history; survived by a son, three daughters, a brother, two sisters, 18 grandchildren, 39 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

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**PHILLIP BRACKEN FLEMING**, major General U. S. army, ambassador to Costa Rica, former federal works administrator and chairman of the maritime commission, died at Washington, D. C., October 6, 1955, at Walter Reed Army hospital while undergoing an operation for cancer; also had been under-secretary of commerce; born at Burlington, Iowa, October 15, 1887, son of John Joseph and Mary Bracken Fleming; attended Lourdes academy and Burlington high school and was a student two years at Wisconsin university (1905-1907) prior to entering

the U. S. military academy at West Point; student in army engineering school 1912-1913; received his LL.D. at St. Frances college, and his J.C.D. at Georgetown university; married Dorothy Carson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Carson of Burlington, December 5, 1914, at Burlington; entered corps of engineers, U. S. army as second lieutenant June 15, 1911, and advanced through the grades to major general in October, 1942; an engineer by training, during his long career in government served with the public works administration, the resettlement administration and the wage and hour division of the department of labor, as well as with the commerce department; was chairman of president's Highway Safety Conference 1946-1949, president's Conference on fire prevention 1947-1949; a member of American Society of Civil Engineers, Society of American Military Engineers, Permanent International Association of Naval Congresses (chairman of American section, member of permanent council), Delta Upsilon and Roman Catholic church; clubs included Minnesota, University, Somerset (St. Paul), Army and Navy, Army and Navy Country (Washington, D. C.), Chevy Chase, Engineers (New York); survived by his widow, two children, four grandchildren, four sisters, a brother and a number of nieces, the sisters being Mrs. Harding Polk of Burlington, Mrs. Wendell Van Auken of Buffalo, Wyoming, Mrs. Wilfrid M. Blunt of Washington and Mrs. Henry W. Chittenden of Owings Mills, Maryland, and the brother, John J. Fleming, Jr., of Philadelphia.

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JOHN THOMAS MCCLINTOCK, physician and educator, died at Iowa City, Iowa, September 24, 1955; born at Burlington, Iowa, June 7, 1873; son of the Rev. John Calvin and Mary E. McKean McClintock; after attending Burlington schools received his bachelor's degree from Parsons college in 1894, which institution conferred a doctor of science degree upon him in 1925; pursued advanced medical studies at the universities of Vienna, Berlin and Leipzig in Austria and Germany and at Rush Medical college, Chicago, being on leave from the State University of Iowa during his studies in Europe; served as director of the college of medicine, postgraduate studies and of the physiology and pharmacy equipment maintenance shop; had been a member of the college of medicine faculty since 1897, also served as a junior dean from 1913 to 1933 and was chairman of the administrative committee from 1933 to 1935; was named professor emeritus of the physiology department of the State University of Iowa college of medicine in 1949; married to the former Beulah George of Des Moines June 20, 1900; a member and past president of the Johnson County Medical society; a member of the Iowa State Medical society, the American Medical association, the American Association for the Advance-

ment of Science, the Society of Experimental Biology and medicine, the American Association of University Professors and the Triangle club; also a member of Phi Rho Sigma, Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, Alpha Omega Alpha and Sigma Alpha Epsilon; was chairman of the executive council of the Association of American Medical colleges from 1922 to 1924; also served as an elder of the Presbyterian church and as a member of the State University of Iowa board in control of athletics; surviving are his widow, Beulah, and two sons, Dr. John Calvin of Albany, New York, and James Phillips of Worthington, Ohio; also one grandson, five granddaughters and one brother, C. Terry McClintock, of Sioux City, Iowa.

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ROBERT MURRAY GUNN, retired Iowa farmer residing with a son at Washington, D. C., one of the organizers of the Farm bureau and prominent in agricultural organizations, died there in Walter Reed hospital September 23, 1955, his demise attributed to shock caused by a fall in the son's home the previous Sunday; born in 1865, in Elsinore, Bruce county, Ontario, Canada; educated in South Dakota schools and Iowa State College of Agriculture, Ames; engaged in farming for 69 years on Black Hawk county farms south of Waterloo and was still active in farming at 80 years; active in national farm organizations and during President Hoover's term of office, was on the Presidential Advisory Committee on Agriculture; was also head of the Cornbelt Meat Producers association, which was the forerunner of the Farm Bureau; was one of the original members of the National Meat Board in Chicago; a trustee of Cornell college at Mount Vernon, Iowa, for 40 years; had lived in Washington for three years with his son and daughter-in-law, retired Army Col. and Mrs. Damon M. Gunn, 4418 Lowell street N.W., and before coming to Washington, was with the Gunns in Germany where Colonel Gunn was on duty with the U. S. military occupation forces; survivors besides his son and daughter-in-law, a sister, Tena Gunn of Jacksonville, Fla., and two grandsons, Ensign Alan Gunn, now stationed at Memphis, Tenn., and Robert M. Gunn of Chicago, Ill.

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DANTE M. PIERCE, publisher, died July 27, 1955, at Des Moines, Iowa; born August 29, 1880, at Bedford, Iowa, son of James M. Pierce, a publisher of the local papers in Missouri and Bedford, who became one of the publishers of the *Iowa Homestead* at Des Moines in 1885; educated in the Des Moines public schools and for a time attended Iowa State college at Ames; enlisted in the Spanish-American war when only 17 while in St. Louis, Mo., and assigned to Company I, 5th Missouri infantry from Columbia, Mo.; away from home a great deal during his youth, and at times employed upon the *Homestead*; for a short time

owned the *Illinois Farmer*, Chicago; inherited 51 percent of the capital stock of the Homestead Company upon his father's death, and subsequent to assuming control of the property sold it to John and Henry Wallace of *Wallace's Farmer*, who combined the two farm papers, since being known as *Wallace's Farmer and Iowa Homestead*; the venture of the Wallaces ending unsuccessfully, whereupon Pierce purchased the plant from receivership in 1932 and since continued the publication with Donald R. Murphy as editor and his son, Richard S. Pierce as associate publisher since 1950; married Florence Prather, mother of Richard S. Pierce and they were divorced in 1929; married Mrs. Laura Rawson Coffee, who died in 1934, leaving three daughters, two of whom were adopted by Mr. Pierce; survived by the widow, the former Dr. Grace O. Doane, they having resided in the former Coffee-Francis home at 4140 Grand avenue, Des Moines.

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JULIUS A. NELSON, farmer, banker and legislator, died at Atlantic, Iowa, July 24, 1955; born on a farm north of Atlantic, January 14, 1872, and resided in Cass and Audubon counties all his life; son of Danish parents, Peter and Marie Nelson; attended rural schools and the Atlantic high school, and a graduate of the Atlantic Business college; married Elizabeth Brown January 1, 1902 and they lived on the same farm west of the Atlantic Golf and Country club for 49 years; when 21 was elected clerk of Oakland township, Audubon county and served until he moved to Benton township, six years later; served as Benton township trustee six years and after moving to Grove township became school board secretary and treasurer; elected state senator in 1919 and served until 1928; served as vice-president and director of the Farmer's Savings Bank at Atlantic and at one time a director of the Federal Land bank in that district; was formerly president of the Cass County Mutual Insurance association and the Atlantic Building and Supply company, being a director of these organizations at the time of his death; surviving are the widow, two sons, Donald, living on the west coast, and Gail residing north of Atlantic, a daughter, Mrs. Margery E. Martin of Red Oak, three sisters, ten grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

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GEORGE B. PERKINS: banker, city and county official and legislator, died at Sac City, Iowa, October 4, 1955; born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, August 11, 1874; came to Sac City in 1896 and since resided there; active in community and official life and became identified with the Sac county district court in 1906; was a state bank examiner for a period and on January 1, 1905 became president of the First National bank, Sac City; was an Iowa legislator in both house and senate, serving in the Thirty-eighth and Thirty-ninth General Assembly as a representative

and in the Fortieth, the Fortieth extra and the Forty-first General assemblies in the senate; was mayor of Sac City and long regarded as one of Sac City's leading citizens; his mother died in 1941 at Fond du Lac aged 105 years; served for 20 years as treasurer of the independent school district of Sac City; was married in June, 1899 to Lola May Early; a member of the Presbyterian church and several fraternal organizations including Masonic bodies, Iowa Pioneer Lawmaker's association; survived by his widow, one son, George Perkins of Big Fork, Minnesota, two daughters, Mrs. C. H. Jeglum of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, and Mrs. Eloise Kibbie of Sac City, a sister, Miss Frances B. Perkins, of Fond du Lac, and two grandchildren.

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CHARLES RAYMOND FISCHER, farmer, banker and public official, died September 8, 1955, at Des Moines, Iowa; born on a farm near Turin, in Monona county; son of George and Mary Fischer; attended rural schools and local high school, and also attended University of Nebraska and Des Moines university; in early maturity was engaged in farming and later in banking at Turin and Onawa in Monona county; became assistant budget director of Iowa in 1924, serving four years; served as corporation clerk in the office of secretary of state in 1931 and 1932; appointed state insurance commissioner in 1939, continuing in that position until 1947; was clerk of a legislative committee on reorganization of state government from 1947 to 1949, when reappointed state insurance commissioner and served in that position until his death; had previously been connected with several mutual insurance associations; a Republican and active in many state campaigns; suffered for several years from ill health and spent many winters in Tempe, Arizona; survived by his widow, Naomi Bennett Fischer; one son, George D., of Norwalk; three brothers, Lewis of Onawa, Walter of Castana and Chester A. of Cleveland, Ohio; one sister, Mrs. W. S. Whitlock of Turin, and two grandchildren.

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WILLIAM J. KEEFE, attorney and jurist, former resident of Clinton, Iowa, died in Bronxville, New York, September 14, 1955; born in Clinton, November 17, 1872; son of Thomas and Mary Miles Keefe; attended the schools of Clinton and was graduated from the University of Iowa law school in the class of 1894; began the practice of law in Clinton and served two terms as county attorney of Clinton county; married Annabel Carroll of Davenport on June 12, 1912; served as chairman of the Clinton county Democrat central committee in 1932; appointed by President Roosevelt to the Federal bench as judge of the U. S. Customs court in 1933, serving in New York city, the family moving east at the time of his assuming the office; retired from office in 1947 and continued his residence in

Bronxville; survived by his widow, two sons, William C. Keefe, of Bronxville and John M. Keefe of Rye, New York, three grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

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ALEXANDER STANLEY BLOEDEL, hardwareman, undertaker and legislator, a resident of Iowa 54 years, died at a Hamburg hospital September 10, 1955; born in Papillion, Nebraska, May 8, 1876; son of Andrew and Caroline Bloedel; attended rural schools at Papillion, and moved to Iowa in 1893; married Sarah Weatherhead in 1904, and they have a family of five sons and two daughters; a civic leader, and at the time of death was serving a third term as representative from Fremont county in the Iowa legislature; his varied activities included those of a Tabor hardware dealer for 54 years, a trustee of the now defunct Tabor college 15 years, president of the old Tabor & Northern railroad, many years a funeral director, a former mayor of Tabor, and bank director 35 years; in 1948 received his 50-year Masonic pin and also held membership in the order of Knights of Pythias, the Congregational church and the Republican party; survivors include his widow, two sons, Raymond of Malvern, and Robert of Tabor, both in the hardware business; five daughters, 17 grandchildren, one brother and three sisters.

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HOBART M. MCPHERSON, banker, died at his summer home at Bridgewater, Conn., October 1, 1955; born at Fairfield, Iowa, in 1896; was graduated from the University of Kansas in 1920 and then joined the National City Bank in New York; was assigned to the credit department; appointed an assistant cashier in 1928 and an assistant vice president in 1931; stationed at the Forty-second street branch from 1935 until transferred to the Fifth Avenue branch at Fifty-first street, in 1944; in July 1945 promoted to a vice presidency, the title of the bank since March, 1955, being the First National City Bank, as a result of the merger of the National City and the First National; had been active in the work of the National Travelers Aid association, of which he was elected president in May, 1946; was also treasurer and a director of the National Health and Retirement association; belonged to the University Club and the Skating Club of New York city and the Apawamis Club of Rye, and resided at 200 East Sixty-sixth street, New York; survived by the widow, Mrs. Dora Dehli Gould McPherson, their marriage having occurred last November, and a step-daughter, Mrs. C. Samuel Ashmun, Jr., of Minneapolis.

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FRANK J. COMFORT, lawyer and former referee in bankruptcy, died at Des Moines, Iowa, November 1, 1955; born at Mason City, Iowa, May 30, 1890 and attended high school there; at-

tended Iowa State college at Ames, the State University of Iowa and Drake University, receiving a law degree from the latter in 1913; became a law clerk for the Fidelity and Casualty Insurance Co. in New York in 1913 and 1914, and then returned to Des Moines, where he entered general law practice and served as claim agent for the same company in 1914 to 1916; appointed federal referee in bankruptcy for the southern Iowa district September 1, 1916, and held that position 15 years except for time spent in service in World War I; active in Democratic politics most of his life; a delegate to a number of national and state conventions and was a party leader without becoming a candidate for office; served as Democratic national committeeman from 1939 to 1944; was general counsel and a director of the Insurance Plan Savings and Loan Association and president of the Des Moines Building Co.; belonged to Kappa Sigma and Tau Psi fraternities and the Knights of Columbus, of which he was a district deputy for a number of years; survived by his widow, Marie, his mother Mrs. Thomas Comfort of Mason City, a brother, George P. of Des Moines, a son, Frank P. of Des Moines, a daughter, Mrs. Calvin Manning of Sterling, Ill., and four grandchildren.

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ELMER A. JOHNSON, lawyer and legislator, died at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, October 21, 1955; born in a lumber camp at Wernerville, Juneau county, Wisconsin, November 29, 1871; son of John and Kate Burke Johnson; came with parents to Chester, Howard county, Iowa, in 1877, where he grew to manhood upon a farm; obtained early education in rural schools, taught school, read law in John McCook's office in Cresco and in 1899 graduated from the law department of the State University of Iowa; admitted to the bar the same year and subsequently practiced law at Lisbon in Linn county; served in the Spanish-American war with Co. I of the Fiftieth Iowa infantry regiment; was married June 5, 1901, to Ella Kettering of Lisbon, who died in 1903; again married December 14, 1905, to Iva M. Strong of Lisbon; served in the Iowa house of representatives three terms, which included four sessions; began his practice of law in Cedar Rapids in 1919 and his combined years as an attorney both in Lisbon and Cedar Rapids was 56 years; a member of the Spanish-American War Veterans, Iowa Consistory, El Kahir Shrine, Star of the West Knights of Pythias lodge, the Chamber of Commerce, the Linn county, Iowa and American Bar Associations and St. Paul's Methodist church, also formerly a member of Linn County Farm Bureau and the Kiwanis club; survived by his widow and a daughter, Mrs. Erroll L. Miller of Cedar Rapids.



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